



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913  
PH (517) 373.3447 | FAX (517) 373.5849  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/birkholz/](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/birkholz/)

For Immediate Release  
May 31, 2006

Contact: Amanda Price  
517-373-3447

## **Michigan to be part of Midwest rail commission**

**LANSING** – Michigan will now be included in the Midwest Interstate Passenger Rail Commission under legislation signed into law recently, said Sen. Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township.

The commission is composed of Midwestern states and serves as an advocate for regional needs on passenger rail systems.

“Michigan will now be assured a voice in decisions affecting rail service in the Midwest region,” said Birkholz, an advocate of the legislation. “With Amtrak running throughout our state, it is only appropriate we have a say in the future of the rail system. With ridership increasing, we need to ensure any improvements will be beneficial to Michigan.”

The commission serves as an advocate on the federal, state and local levels for frequent, convenient and cost-effective rail service. Primary importance is placed on the promotion, coordination and support for regional improvements to passenger rail service.

Current members of the MIPRC are Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and Ohio. Illinois and Wisconsin have pending legislation to be included.

The legislation is now Public Act 173 of 2006.

###